

THE CANTON TIMES

WALTER N. HURT, Editor.

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No scandal ever appears in the TIMES, it comes to your homes as pure as unsunned snow.

We are not responsible for the views of correspondents.

Obituaries and Tributes of Respects are charged for.

Short, pithy, pertinent correspondence is acceptable, but we reserve the right to publish only such as we approve.

BRYAN MUST NOT DICTATE

The Hon. Wm. J. Bryan, who has twice been honored with the Democratic nomination for president, seems to think that he has the divine right to dictate the party platform and name the candidate.

Four years ago, Mr. Bryan, from his Nebraska home, dictated the Democratic platform and no delegate from the South questioned his right to do this except Senator Money, of this State. Mr. Bryan was then in the height of his popularity, but the Mississippi senator boldly declared that no man was bigger than the Democratic party. But Mr. Bryan does not seem to grasp this idea.

He feels called upon to oppose everything that Grover Cleveland favors and to reply at length to every utterance of the ex-president. The later says, however, that he does not care, adding, laconically, "let him talk."

Of course Mr. Bryan did not need the permission of Mr. Cleveland or any other man to "talk"—this is the birthright of every free American citizen.

But he is not the master of the Democratic party.

The party does not exist simply and solely for his benefit or for the benefit of any one man.

The TIMES admires Mr. Bryan in a great many respects, but it does not believe the Democratic party can again follow his lead to certain defeat.

Mr. Bryan, as an individual Democrat, is entitled to his opinions, but because they are his opinions is no reason why they should be adopted.

A platform must be built and a candidate selected that means success. The supreme duty of the hour is to nominate a man who can defeat Teddy, the Terrible.

NO INSTRUCTIONS.

Senator Money has announced that he regards the request of the Mississippi legislature to vote for the Panama canal as a "command," therefore he will vote for it, although he disapproves of the methods by which Teddy obtained the treaty.

It is understood that Senator McLaurin does not regard himself as in any way instructed by the legislature, and that he will vote against the treaty.

Senator Money is one of the best men the present writer ever knew, and for his opinion the TIMES can only have the highest regard, but he is undoubtedly taking the legislature "urge" too seriously.

In the first place the legislature did not "instruct" or even "command"—it only "urged." In the next place the U. S. Senators have just recently been before the people and they are competent to judge of what the people

wish as the members of the legislature.

What is right and just under the circumstances, what is best for the country, should govern the Senators in their action on the Panama Canal treaty and not what the legislature may or may not think about it.

Senator Money would lose nothing in the esteem of the people if he voted against ratification, provided his best judgment prompted him to do so.

The legislature simply meddled where it had no right to "butt in" and both Senators should feel at liberty to vote as they think right and proper.

LATER:—The senate ratified the treaty, 14 Democrats voting against it. Senator Money voted for and Senator McLaurin was paired against it.

OLD-TIME DEBATING SOCIETIES.

Few organizations are so potent in bringing out and developing the higher and better nature of the boys and girls than an active literary or debating club, and we hope some day to see such an organization at work in every community in Clay county. They are not only the source of considerable amusement and pleasure but they are also instructive to spectators as well as helpful to the participants.—Dixie Press.

The Dixie Press is right. The decadence of the old-time debating society is a matter of deep regret. Time was once when almost every old field school house had a debating society and from them have come the most learned men and finished orators of the country. The good they have done in the past, is a matter of common knowledge to those who attended them.

The shy youth was, through the medium of the debating society, inspired with self-confidence and self control. He learned, at least, rudiments of parliamentary practice and he became a student, learning many valuable things in his researches.

The country debating club is almost a thing of the past and unfortunately such clubs do not flourish in towns and cities. Instead, valuable time is wasted in a way that is often a positive injury.

Another thing: The public schools of our State do not give as much time to the important matter of developing speakers that should be given. A debating club, a "congress" or a "senate" should be a part of the curriculum of every school. Few things would prove more beneficial.

The TIMES would like to see an old-fashioned debating society in Canton and in every community of Madison county. Not only are they sources of improvement, but as mental developers and educators their power and influence are indeed great.

Editorial Briefs.

The Japs still have the "under-holt" on the Russians and it is hoped will throw 'em.

J. D. Richardson has revived the Hattiesburg Citizen. The TIMES wishes him good luck. Richardson can make it go, if anybody can.

John Sharp Williams, of this State, has been mentioned by several prominent northern democrats as good presidential timber. But, unfortunately, the masses in the north do not recognize the fact that "the war is over."

In selecting trustees for the Blind Asylum, Gov. Vardaman did well. Especially was the selection of Dr. J. P. Taylor, of Montgomery county, an excellent one. The doctor was a member of the legislature for twelve years and he is a man who takes a deep interest in everything with which he is connected.

Our brilliant bachelor friend, Jno. L. Lovett, of the Dixie Press, West Point, is too easily discouraged. He says: "Leap years are not always what they seem." Cheer up, good friend, there are yet ten months and since "all things come to him that waits," there is yet hope that some fair one may take pity on your solitude.

Louisiana is quarantining against the Texas boll weevil. It is proposed to prohibit the growing of cotton within 20 miles of the Texas line and also in other infected districts. A big, lusty kick is being registered by the farmers in the district affected. The quarantine business was made to do overtime during the yellow fever scares a few years ago and when it comes to applying it to insects it is likely to become a greater farce. However, the TIMES hopes the Louisiana commission will meet them on the border with shotguns and turn them back.

Blackberries will command a fancy price this season. The fence rows, ditch banks, odd nooks and corners where they have heretofore bloomed in beauty and lavishly set the table of nature with feast for fowl and man, will now strive to gratify another appetite of man by growing cotton. It will be a stubborn case of cotton fever this time. The merchants of Clarksdale, we understand, are now taking contracts for fall delivery at 12 1/2 cents. This will cause unprecedented extravagance in buying. Credit will be strained to the last notch. Cotton will usurp all the field. A failure to deliver the product, or to command the prices will place the planter and merchant in the same bad box.—Winona Times

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Arlington, Ky., March 18, 1903.
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Very truly,
B. W. NEWSON, pastor M. E. Church South, Bogota, Tenn., March 19, 1903.

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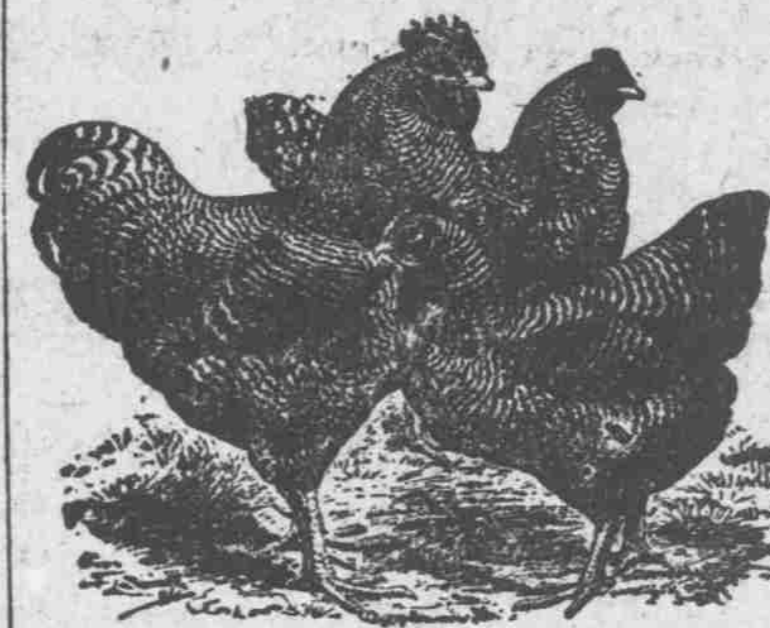
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